

University of Montana  
**ScholarWorks at University of Montana**

---

Max S. Baucus Speeches

Archives and Special Collections

---

8-26-1978

# Democratic Party Platform Dinner (1)

Max S. Baucus

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.umt.edu/baucus\\_speeches](https://scholarworks.umt.edu/baucus_speeches)

---

## Recommended Citation

Baucus, Max S., "Democratic Party Platform Dinner (1)" (August 26, 1978). *Max S. Baucus Speeches*. 71.  
[https://scholarworks.umt.edu/baucus\\_speeches/71](https://scholarworks.umt.edu/baucus_speeches/71)

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Special Collections at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Max S. Baucus Speeches by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

Printing, Graphics & Direct Mail  
ONBASE SYSTEM  
Indexing Form

Senator \* or Department\*: **BAUCUS**

Instructions:

Prepare one form for insertion at the beginning of each record series.

Prepare and insert additional forms at points that you want to index.

For example: at the beginning of a new folder, briefing book, topic, project, or date sequence.

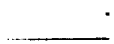
Record Type\*: **Speeches & Remarks**

 **August-1978**

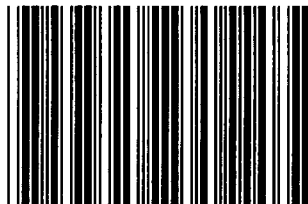
  
 **Politics**

(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

 **Address at Democratic Party Platform Dinner**

 **08/26/1978**

[CLICK TO PRINT](#)



BAUCUS

*early draft*

AN ADDRESS BY  
MONTANA CONGRESSMAN MAX BAUCUS  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM DINNER  
EDGEWATER INN, MISSOULA, MONTANA  
AUGUST 26, 1978

I'M A CONGRESSMAN WHO'S TRYING TO MOVE TO THE SENATE.  
THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO BODIES, AND I EXPECT I'LL  
HAVE TO DO A LITTLE ADJUSTING.

THE SENATE HAS A FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. WHEN I  
WENT TO WASHINGTON THREE AND ONE-HALF YEARS AGO, ITS COUNTERPART  
IN THE HOUSE WAS THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

PEOPLE WERE CURIOUS ABOUT WHY THE NAMES WERE DIFFERENT.  
A FORMER SENATOR HAD THE ANSWER. HE SAID HOUSE MEMBERS ARE USUALLY  
YOUNG, AND THEY CAN HAVE AFFAIRS.

BUT BY THE TIME YOU REACH THE SENATE, YOU'RE ONLY CAPABLE  
OF HAVING RELATIONS.

I HAVE ENJOYED BEING A CONGRESSMAN. UNFORTUNATELY, I SPEND A LOT OF MY TIME DEALING WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY. BUT I KNOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER.

EMERSON ONCE SAID THAT THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DIVIDED INTO THE PARTY OF HOPE AND THE PARTY OF MEMORY. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN THE PARTY OF HOPE TO THE VAST MAJORITY OF AMERICAN PEOPLE DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS.

I KNOW WE DON'T AGREE ON EVERYTHING. LIKE WILL ROGERS SAID, "I DON'T BELONG TO AN ORGANIZED PARTY -- I AM A DEMOCRAT."

BUT WE'RE A SCRAPPY BUNCH. AND WE TAKE THE LEAD ON ISSUES.

WE DEMOCRATS ARE OUT FRONT DISCUSSING THE IMPORTANT MONTANA ISSUES -- AGRICULTURE, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND UNRESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT.

AND IN SPITE OF REPUBLICAN RHETORIC, IT'S THE DEMOCRATS TAKING THE RESPONSIBLE LEAD IN THE ATTACK ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

WE CONGRESSMEN ARE ALWAYS UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE TO CREATE AND EXPAND PROGRAMS. BUT WE'RE FACING UP TO OUR ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITIES.

I STRESS THE WORD RESPONSIBLE. THE HOUSE JUST PASSED A DEMOCRATIC TAX BILL DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE BITE ON THE AVERAGE AMERICAN AND INCREASE NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY.

AND WE DEFEATED AN IRRESPONSIBLE SUBSTITUTE BILL PUSHED BY REPUBLICANS.

ON THE SURFACE, IT WAS AN ATTRACTIVE PROPOSAL. THE KEMP-ROTH BILL WOULD HAVE CUT TAXES 33 PERCENT IN THREE YEARS. THE PROBLEM WAS THAT IT DID NOT REQUIRE A SIMILAR CUT IN THE BUDGET.

THE SAME REPUBLICANS WHO PIOUSLY DEMAND INSTANT BALANCING OF THE BUDGET LINED UP BEHIND THIS PROPOSAL THAT ACCORDING TO BUSINESS WEEK MAGAZINE WOULD ADD "\$100 BILLION TO A DEFICIT THAT IS ALREADY DANGEROUSLY SWOLLEN.

"IT WOULD TOUCH OFF AN INFLATIONARY EXPLOSION THAT WOULD WRECK THE COUNTRY AND IMPOVERISH EVERYONE ON A FIXED INCOME."

BUSINESS WEEK CONCLUDED BY SAYING, "IF TAXPAYERS WANT TO REVOLT AND CUT TAXES THEY MUST FORCE SIZABLE CUTS IN SPENDING."

ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. YOU CANNOT RESPONSIBLY CUT TAXES WITHOUT CUTTING SPENDING AT THE SAME TIME. WE HAVE TO GET CONTROL OF FEDERAL SPENDING.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WE IN THE HOUSE JUST VOTED FOR A BUDGET RESOLUTION THAT CUTS THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED DEFICIT BY \$20 BILLION AND SPENDING BY \$10 BILLION.

AND WE DEMOCRATS WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN RESPONSIBLE SPENDING AND TAX POLICIES.

A RECENT ANALYSIS BY THE NATIONAL TAXPAYERS UNION SHOT DOWN SOME OF THE OLD MYTHS ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING. WHEN THE NTU CLOSELY EXAMINED THE NUMBER OF ANTI-SPENDING VOTES CAST BY EACH MEMBER AND HOW MUCH EACH MEMBER VOTED NOT TO SPEND, SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER ONLY SCORED 36 PERCENT, WHILE SENATOR CHURCH FROM IDAHO SCORED 44 PERCENT.

AND I'M PROUD THAT I RECEIVED A RATING OF 54 PERCENT WHICH PUTS ME IN THE TOP 10 PERCENT ON THE LIST OF FRUGAL CONGRESSMEN.

I INTEND TO KEEP UP THOSE SPENDING HABITS IN THE SENATE.

THE REPUBLICAN RIGHT WING ARE FEELING THEIR OATS. THEY'RE CHANNELING A LOT OF MONEY, RAISED LARGELY BY CORPORATE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES, AGAINST DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES IN RURAL STATES. WE CAN EXPECT THE SAME TYPE OF MEDIA SMEAR TACTICS THAT WE'VE SEEN IN THEIR PREVIOUS CHALLENGES. BUT WE MONTANA DEMOCRATS HAVE MET THAT KIND OF CHALLENGE BEFORE. WE'VE SENT GREAT INDIVIDUALS TO THE SENATE. MEN LIKE WALSH, MURRAY, MANSFIELD, METCALF AND MELCHER HAVE FORGED A STANDARD OF PUBLIC SERVICE BY WHICH FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL BE MEASURED.

MY FRIEND MO UDALL HAS DESCRIBED THE WAY DEMOCRATS ACT IN PRIMARIES -- HE SAID WE ARE LIKE A FIRING SQUAD LINED UP IN A CIRCLE.

I'M PROUD THAT THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN IN MONTANA.

MY OPPONENTS IN THE PRIMARY WERE FIRST CLASS MEN. AND NOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER FOR A DEMOCRATIC VICTORY IN NOVEMBER.

THE REAL WAY YOU WIN ELECTIONS IS WITH HARD WORK... COMPASSION...CREATIVITY...AND ...COOPERATION.

I'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU PART OF A TELEGRAM I RECEIVED FROM MIKE MANSFIELD RIGHT AFTER THE PRIMARY. MIKE SAID,

"IT IS MY HOPE NOW THAT THE PRIMARY IS OVER THAT ALL DEMOCRATS WILL GET TOGETHER AND SUPPORT THE TICKET FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. I URGE YOU TO COVER THE STATE FROM Ekalaka TO TROY AND FROM PLentyWOOD TO WEST YELLOWSTONE AND ALL POINTS IN BETWEEN AND AROUND."

WE MUST ELECT PAT WILLIAMS AND TOM MONAHAN TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. WE MUST ELECT DEMOCRATIC MAJORITIES IN THE STATE HOUSE AND SENATE. WE MUST CARRY EVERY COUNTY OFFICE IN THIS FALL'S ELECTION.

CARL SANDBURG WROTE THAT,

"WE KNOW WHEN A NATION GOES DOWN AND NEVER COMES BACK, ONE CONDITION MAY ALWAYS BE FOUND. THEY FORGOT WHERE THEY CAME FROM. THEY LOST SIGHT OF WHAT BROUGHT THEM ALONG...THEY BECAME SATISFIED WITH THEMSELVES...THE MOCKERS CAME, AND THE DENIERS WERE HEARD. THEY FORGOT WHERE THEY CAME FROM. THEY LOST SIGHT OF WHAT HAD BROUGHT THEM ALONG."

LET'S NEVER FORGET THAT IN AMERICA WE THE PEOPLE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR OWN FUTURE.